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AND PUBLIC ACCESS**

**Market Research for Planning the Conversion of Copyright  
Assignment Catalog Card Data**

Request for Information  
Version 1.0

February 1, 2013

## Market Research for Planning the Conversion of Copyright Assignment Catalog Card Data

This is a Request for Information (RFI) only. Any and all information requested in response to this RFI is for **Market Research purposes only**. In accordance with FAR 15.201 (e), responses to this notice are not offers and cannot be accepted by the government to form a binding contract. The government is under no obligation to issue a solicitation or to award any contract on the basis of this RFI. All costs associated with responding to this RFI will be the sole responsibility of the contractor. All submissions to this RFI will be treated as business materials, become government property and will not be returned.

The information contained in this background document is being provided to interested parties in order to obtain information for planning and budgeting purposes. The Copyright Office is planning the conversion of content from approximately 2.5 million images of Copyright catalog cards containing index terms and other facts pertaining to approximately 350,000 transfers and assignments of rights. The actual cards were recently digitized into high quality color uncompressed TIFF images at 300 ppi. For data capture and conversion of the content, the Copyright Office would provide color JPEG2000 derivative images organized into sets (directories) of approximately 1800 images, each set corresponding to one drawer in the catalog. Interested vendors are asked to study the information contained herein as well as the sample card images available at:

[//ftp.loc.gov/pub/copyright/digit/](http://ftp.loc.gov/pub/copyright/digit/)

- Zipped J2K Assignment Card Images.zip (Containing the full contents of 4 catalog drawers)
- Assignments.zip (Containing complete sets of cards for 10 assignments including title(s), assignor(s), and assignee(s); image file names are the assignment numbers with suffixes)

Based on the information, interested parties are asked to provide as much detail as possible about what it would cost per card to capture and convert the data content from the card images into data records as described below at each of the following 3 levels of accuracy: 98%, 99%, and 99.9% and at any other level of accuracy that a respondent wishes to suggest. The respondent should include a description of how they would achieve the agreed upon level of accuracy. The respondent is also asked to provide as much detail as possible about the time frame to convert the 2.5 million card images and about any assumptions, limitations or restrictions that would apply at the cost per card quoted.

### **Assignment Cards**

Assignments represent the public record of assignments or transfers of some or all rights regarding a specific work of intellectual property from one party, the assignor, to a second party, the assignee. Assignments are also referred to as recorded documents.

**a. Characteristics of the assignment cards:**

- The cards are arranged in four sets as follows:
  - Assignment titles (1928 to 1977) one alphabetical index containing approximately 1,732,692 cards (no titles were indexed prior to 1928)
  - Assignors (1870 to 1941) one alphabetical index containing approximately 60,000 cards

- Assignees (1870 to 1941) one alphabetical index containing approximately 74,980 cards
  - Interfiled assignors/assignees (1941 to 1977) one alphabetical index containing approximately 632,564 cards
  - Across the four sets of assignment cards, much data is duplicated; title cards contain the names of assignors and assignees; assignor and assignee cards contain many of the titles
  - The cards represent approximately 350,000 assignments/transfers of rights involving approximately 1.7 million titles
  - Volume and page number uniquely identify a recorded document
  - Prior to 1928, titles were not indexed, however some titles were included on the assignor and assignee cards and these titles need to be captured and included in the output records
  - All pieces of data in a card are labeled (see examples in Appendix A)
  - Document Received date and Date Recorded date were used at different times but are both to be captured as Date Recorded
  - Carbon paper was used in producing many of the assignment cards
  - The cards range in time from 1870 to 1977 and many are handwritten
- b. Recognizing and parsing data in the assignment card images and building the data records:

In general, the data capture/conversion process will involve the following:

- Capturing the data from each card taking into account the organization of the cards by title, assignor and assignee and that much of the data is repeated in the cards for each assignment
- Parsing the data into fields
- Sorting the captured data by recorded document number (i.e., volume and beginning page number)
- Building assignment title records in XML format from the content of the card images

The Copyright Office recognizes that there are several approaches that may be taken to capturing and converting the data and building the assignment title records. It will be up to the respondent to describe which method will achieve the best accuracy/cost ratio.

A typical assignment will have one assignor card, one assignee card, and at least one title card. However some assignments involve thousands of titles and each title will have a card in the catalog. There may also be more than one assignor or assignee name and each will have a card in the catalog. A recorded document may be a single party document without an assignee name.

Data capture from images of the assignment cards in the Copyright Card Catalog will require capture and verification of the data elements specified in the table below. All output records from data capture that contain the same recorded document number (volume and page) and the same date recorded (i.e., the same recorded assignment document) will be combined to produce **one full integrated record for each title in the document**. Assignments that have no titles shall specify "No title given" in the

work title field and in the document title field. Delivery format shall be XML using tags corresponding to the data elements specified.

- Content of a Data Record

<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Title (Work title)	Text string	Work title or "No title given"
Work title number	Sequential 5 digit number assigned to each record for each recorded document	Assigned during the building of the records
Assignor (Party one)	Personal name (Inverted; not parsed) or Corporate name; Multiple occurrence	A document has at least one assignor (party one) name
Assignee (Party two)	Personal name (Inverted; not parsed) or Corporate name; Multiple occurrence	
Title and Author (Document title)	Text string	Document title or "No title given"
Registration number	Alphanumeric Multiple occurrence	
Date of registration	YYYYMMDD, YYYYMM, or YYYY; Multiple occurrence	(May be only the year or only the year and month)
Date recorded	YYYYMMDD	Validity check on date
Date of execution	YYYYMMDD, YYYYMM or YYYY; Multiple occurrence	(May be only the year or only year and month)
Recorded document number (volume)	Four digit numeric	Validity check on the number; left zero fill
Recorded document number (page)	Three digit numeric; beginning page number for the document	Validity check on the number; left zero fill
Notes	Text string	
Cross reference	Text string	
Links to respective card images	Links to the J2K image files as provided by the Copyright Office	One per J2K image file

- For any card image that does not contain a volume and page number, all other information from the image would still need to be captured in the appropriate fields and saved along with the link to the image in a separate file for further research by the Copyright Office.
- The respondent should also include recommendations about how the Copyright Office can verify the accuracy of data capture, the accuracy of data parsing and identification, and the accuracy of data record construction.

## **Intellectual Property Rights**

The Government shall retain full ownership rights to all deliverables from any future contracts involving the Copyright Digitization and Public Access project including all digital versions of Copyright records, all image files, all data and index files, and all project management and status reports. Such rights shall include both tangible and intangible rights including but not limited to copyright, trademark, patent, trade secret, and unfair competition. The contractor may claim no rights or legal interest in delivered material including electronic files, their content, or the organization structure of the files or their indexes.

## **RFI Instructions**

Interested vendors or organizations should address the following in their submissions:

1. Provide as much detail as possible about what it would cost per card to capture and convert the data content from the cards into data records as described above at each of the following 3 levels of accuracy: 98%, 99%, and 99.9% and at any other level of accuracy that a respondent wishes to suggest.
2. Describe how the agreed upon level of accuracy would be achieved.
3. Provide as much detail as possible about the time frame to convert the 2.5 million card images and about any assumptions, limitations or restrictions that would apply.
4. Describe which method of data capture and conversion will achieve the best accuracy/cost ratio and why.
5. Recommend how the Copyright Office might verify the accuracy of data capture, the accuracy of data parsing and identification, and the accuracy of data record construction.

THIS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN INVITATION FOR BID, REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL, NOR A REQUEST FOR QUOTATION, AND IS NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS A COMMITMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE AN ORDER/CONTRACT OR OTHERWISE PAY FOR THE INFORMATION SOLICITED.

### **Other Pertinent Information**

The records of the Copyright Office referenced in this statement of work are public records and may be inspected during regular business hours by interested vendors or organizations in the Madison Building of the Library of Congress in room LM-404. Reader registration is required before access to the records is granted.

Appendix A contains examples of the three types of assignment cards:

- Assignment title cards – one alphabetical set from 1928 to 1977 (no titles were indexed prior to 1928)
- Assignor cards – one alphabetical set from 1870 to 1941; integrated with assignee cards in one alphabetical set from 1941 to 1977
- Assignee cards – one alphabetical set from 1870 to 1941; integrated with assignor cards in one alphabetical set from 1941 to 1977

The data, outlined in red in the following examples, are the tags and related content to be captured from each of the types of cards.

Title	Page
Examples of Assignment Title Cards	A - 1
Examples of Assignor Cards	A - 3
Examples of Assignee Cards	A - 7

## Examples of Assignment Cards

**ASSIGNMENT TITLE CARD**

Title and author RIFFIN' THE SCOTCH.

From Flaherty, Dorothy (Mrs. Ed Flaherty) (assignor)

To Robbins Music Corporation (assignee)

Class \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_, of 19 \_\_\_\_\_ Document received July 17, 1958

Recorded vol. 1012, pp. 353 Date of execution July 8, 1958

(Dec., 1951—400,000) 16-65864-1 GPO

Pre 1961 Assignment Title Card

**ASSIGNMENT TITLE CARD**

Title and author RIFFIN' THE SCOTCH.

From McDonough, Dick; Benny Goodman & Ford Lee Buck; by Robbins Music Corporation (Atty) (assignor)

To Robbins Music Corporation (assignee)

Class \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_, of 19 \_\_\_\_\_ Document received Jan. 30, 1961

Recorded vol. 1091, pp. 216 Date of execution Jan. 9, 1961

(Dec., 1951—400,000) 16-65864-1 GPO

Pre 1961 Assignment Title Card

## Examples of Assignment Cards

TITLE		RIFFIN' THE SCOTCH.	
ASSIGNEE			
Robbins Music Corp.			
ASSIGNOR			
Goodman*, Benny.			
ASSIGNEE			
Robbins Music Corp.			
TITLE AND AUTHOR			
RIFFIN' THE SCOTCH & 21 other titles.			
REGISTRATION NUMBER AND YEAR DATE, IF GIVEN			
DATE RECORDED		DATE OF EXECUTION	
14Sep64		8Sep64	
VOLUME	PAGES		
1191	679-681		
C-413 (JUNE 1962 20,000)			

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Post 1961 Assignment Title Card

TITLE		RIFFIN' THE SCOTCH.	
ASSIGNEE			
Robbins Music Corporation			
ASSIGNOR			
Goodman*, Ben and Dick McDonough*			
ASSIGNEE			
Robbins Music Corporation			
TITLE AND AUTHOR			
Riffin' The Scotch.			
REGISTRATION NUMBER AND YEAR DATE, IF GIVEN			
DATE RECORDED		DATE OF EXECUTION	
Feb. 8, 1963		July 17, 1934	
VOLUME	PAGES		
1151	173	(Royalty Agreement)	
C-413 (JUNE 1961 20,000)			

Post 1961 Assignment Title Card



## Examples of Assignment Cards

<b>TITLE</b>		Riffin' with Red. By Bert Robinson. 1959; EU571613	
ASSIGNEE			
ASSIGNOR			
The New York Times Music Corporation.			
ASSIGNEE			
The Times Square Music Publications Company.			
TITLE AND AUTHOR			
Full time subject & 3727 other titles; musical compositions.			
REGISTRATION NUMBER AND YEAR DATE, IF GIVEN			
DATE RECORDED		DATE OF EXECUTION	
10Mar77		7Feb77, as of 31Dec76	
VOLUME	PAGES		
1628	156-456	Assignment of copyrights btc/	
C-414 (FEB. 1972—10,000)			
2993			

Post 1961 Assignment Title Card

<b>ASSIGNOR</b>		<b>TITLE</b>	<b>ASSIGNEE.</b>	
Hatch May 11		"My Best Girl"	Vol	Page
Exec. Feb. 23, 1894		Hitchcock C.A.	14	597
Rec. Feb. 26, 1894				

Pre 1903 Assignor Card

## Examples of Assignment Cards

FROM Hatch, Chas. W. music pub. co. ASSIGNOR

TO Remick, Jerome H. music pub. co. ASSIGNEE

ASSIGNMENT OF ENTRY, CLASS \_\_\_\_\_, No. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE Riveter's rag.

Document received May 22, 1919 Recorded vol. 82, pp. 9-10  
Recorded by a. l. Revised by gwl Indexed by a. l.  
(Oct., 1917)

Pre 1941 Assignor Card

FROM Hatch, David Patterson ASSIGNOR.

TO Mrs. Frances Nellis and Mrs. Annie C. Cheney ASSIGNEE.

ASSIGNMENT OF ENTRY, CLASS A, xxx, No. 114471 of 1900

TITLE Kumbum, the Tibetan Lama

Document received June 24, 1907 Recorded vol. 33, pp. 343-344  
Recorded by B. B. R. Revised by J. C. C. Indexed by B. B. R.  
(15, vi, 1904-1,000.)

Pre 1941 Assignor Card

## Examples of Assignment Cards

<u>Hatch (Eric) *</u>		<u>ASSIGNOR</u>	
<u>FROM</u>			
<u>Paramount Publix Corp.</u>		<u>ASSIGNEE</u>	
<u>TO</u>			
ASSIGNMENT OF ENTRY, CLASS <u>B</u> , No. <u>149930</u> , of <u>1932</u>			
Title <u>Melody man. First published under the title</u>			
<u>"He woke up married", In "College Humor", May-July,</u>			
<u>1932.</u>			
Document	<u>received</u> <u>Sept. 15/32</u>	Recorded	<u>vol.</u> <u>292</u> , <u>pp.</u> <u>30-32</u>
Recorded by	<u>HBN</u>	Revised by	<u>M. A. M.</u>
(July, 1930—5,000)		Indexed by	<u>HBN</u>
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1930			

Pre 1941 Assignor Card

<u>A. Q. V. Music Corp.</u>		<u>ASSIGNOR</u>	
<u>FROM</u>			
<u>Portrait Music Corp.</u>		<u>ASSIGNEE</u>	
<u>TO</u>			
Document	<u>received</u> <u>Mar. 18, 1958</u>	Recorded	<u>vol.</u> <u>1003</u> , <u>pp.</u> <u>436-438</u>
Class	No. _____ of 19 _____	Date of execution	<u>Feb. 1, 1958</u>
Title <u>BEYOND THE NEXT HILL; and 7 others.</u>			
(corrected Mar. 10, 1966)			
C-58 (Dec. 1960—20,000)			
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE			

Pre 1961 Assignor Card



## Examples of Assignment Cards

044181

<b>ASSIGNOR</b> Kumba Music Publishing Company.	
<b>ASSIGNEE</b> Lonport Music, Inc.	
<b>TITLE AND AUTHOR</b> When love has grown; musical composition. By Gene McDaniels & Donny Hathaway.	
<b>REGISTRATION NUMBER AND YEAR DATE, IF GIVEN</b> 1971; EU268349	
<b>DATE RECORDED</b> 10Mar75	<b>DATE OF EXECUTION</b> 1Nov72
<b>VOLUME</b> 1539	<b>PAGES</b> 166
Assignment	
C-413 (NOV. 1974 15,000) <span style="float: right;">sew</span>	

Post 1961 Assignor Card

033324-874

<b>ASSIGNOR</b> Garcia, James William, d.b.a. Big Elk Music.	
<b>ASSIGNEE</b> Iann, Robert W.	
<b>TITLE AND AUTHOR</b> While the city sleeps & 23 other titles; musical compositions. By Robert W. Iann.	
<b>REGISTRATION NUMBER AND YEAR DATE, IF GIVEN</b> EU340005	
<b>DATE RECORDED</b> 10Mar75	<b>DATE OF EXECUTION</b> 1Nov72
<b>VOLUME</b> 1539	<b>PAGES</b> 166
Big Elk assignment and agreement	
C-413 (MAY 1971-7,500)	

Post 1961 Assignor Card

## Examples of Assignment Cards

ASSIGNEE	TITLE	ASSIGNOR	Vol.	Page.
Pool William H.		Sprague T.L.	5	53
		" " "	5	94

Pre 1903 Assignee Card

ASSIGNEE	TITLE	ASSIGNOR	Vol.	Page.
Pool Henry D.		Sailors H.C.	15	527
1894 Nov. 7				
Date Recorded				

Pre 1903 Assignee Card

## Examples of Assignment Cards

ASSIGNEE.	TITLE.	ASSIGNOR.	Vol.	Page.
Porter John		Hyden Fredrick	2	348

Pre 1903 Assignee Card

TO	ASSIGNEE
Pond (Wm. A.) & Co.	
FROM	ASSIGNOR.
Geo. B. Mills, adms. of Estate of Wm. O. Mills	
ASSIGNMENT OF ENTRY, CLASS _____, No. _____ of _____	
TITLE Copyrights for the musical compositions of G. B. Mills deceased, as published by Wm. A. Pond & Co.	
The above is an example of a document title which is to be picked up from Assignee cards only	
Document received Apr. 8, 1911	Recorded vol. 45, pp. 49-50
Recorded by B. B. R. Revised by J. H. L.	Indexed by B. B. R.
(16, 1X, 1909-1,000.)	

Pre 1941 Assignee Card

## Examples of Assignment Cards

TO Pond (Wm. A.) & Co. ASSIGNEE

FROM Edmund Massan, Guardian of Fred C. Mills ASSIGNOR.

ASSIGNMENT OF ENTRY, CLASS \_\_\_\_\_, No. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE Copyrights for the musical compositions of S. B. Mills, deceased, as published by Wm. A. Pond & Co.

The above is an example of a document title which is to be picked up from Assignee cards only

Document received Apr. 5, 1916 Recorded vol. 45, pp. 47-48  
 Recorded by B.B.R. Revised by Johle Indexed by B.B.R.  
 (16, 1x, 1909-1,000.)

Pre 1941 Assignee Card

TO Pond, Wm. A. & Co. ASSIGNEE

FROM Lucas, H. C. & A. M. Holden, H. A. M. G. H. E. G. E. C. E. E. L. ASSIGNOR

ASSIGNMENT OF ENTRY, CLASS E, No. \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE Compositions taken out by Albert J. Holden

The above is an example of a document title which is to be picked up from the Assignee cards only

Document received Mar. 11, 1918 Recorded vol. 74, pp. 1-2  
 Recorded by J. S. Revised by \_\_\_\_\_ Indexed by \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Oct., 1917)

Pre 1941 Assignee Card



## Examples of Assignment Cards

TO		ASSIGNEE	
Kuttner, Mrs. Henry			
FROM		ASSIGNOR	
Street & Smith Publications, Inc.			
Document received	Jan. 28, 1955	Recorded vol.	924 pp. 326
Class	No.	of 19	Date of execution Oct 27, 1954
Title	Forsaking All Others; under the title, "Fruit of Knowledge". In "Unknown" Oct. 1940.		
The above is an example of a document title which is to be picked up from Assignee cards only			
(July 1953, 20,000)			
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE			

Pre 1961 Assignee Card

ASSIGNEE		Kuumba Music.	
ASSIGNOR		Warner Bros. Music, division of Warner Bros. Music, Inc.	
ASSIGNEE		Kuumba Music.	
TITLE AND AUTHOR			
TAKE A LOVE SONG & 28 other titles.			
The above is an example of a document title which is to be picked up from Assignee cards only			
REGISTRATION NUMBER AND YEAR DATE, IF GIVEN			
DATE RECORDED		DATE OF EXECUTION	
24 Nov 72		30 Jun 71	
VOLUME	PAGES		
1465	237-246		
C-413 (FEB. 1972-7,500)			
cl			

Post 1961 Assignee Card